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TALES OF TRANSGRESSION Movies about men who behave badly but aren't entirely bad.

"Where were such compassionate efforts when millions of innocent people were murdered in the genocides in Rwanda, Somalia and the Sudan?" —James Doh, Perth, Ont.

Different worlds

When I flipped through the story "Beyond words" in *Maclean's* (Cover, Jan. 10), I'd already had enough. I had seen enough videos of people being raped on a hotel and I had heard enough talk of how the world could help. Then I began reading your article. "Where came to the disturbing photograph of unidentified victims" pictures passed onto a church bulletin in board in Madras, India, the reality hit me. I stared at each small picture. Most upsetting for me were the teenagers—people exactly like me. Then there were the children, and, worst of all, the babies. And I thought not only of myself, a girl who lives safely and undisturbed in Canada, but of the people whose world was shattered in an instant. I would like to thank you for publishing the article, and for making it real to me. I feel that all those who have not been directly affected by the event need to understand the reality of the women in the world.

Ashley Chambers, Toronto

As an over-60 and under-served low-income Canadian, I am afraid that I am more concerned with my own survival. I note that the government is lately spending my tax dollars on behalf of all Canadians, so I "give at the office" already—without the benefit of discussing if this is a cause I would like to give to. Granted, it may well be more worthwhile than the money wasted on Quebec advertising firms, but I had no say in that matter, either.

Heather Edgerton, Sudbury, Ont.

After watching the utter devastation wrought in Southeast Asia by the tsunami, my daughter and I donated the money we had saved for our vacation to Disney World to disaster relief efforts. We felt that undergoing the saddest place on earth was more important than a visit to the happiest one. As my 12-year-old put it, "They need our help now, and we can go to Disneyland any time." Watching this disaster has served to remind us that we are truly blessed.

Rosalind Kelly, Stouffville, Man.



The disaster in Southeast Asia makes my immediate concerns seem beautifully tiny. How can I not give financial aid to this cause when I have so much and others have so much less? This catastrophe has reminded me to be grateful for what I have, charitable with what I can give, and humble at the awesome power of these natural forces.

Paul Belbin, Burlington, Ont.

As head of a group advocating more foreign assistance, I feel Canada's story declines in official aid for people of the world's poor countries—from 0.46 per cent of GDP in 1993 to 0.24 per cent in 2003, according to the OECD—is simply scandalous. The great generosity of Canadians for the tsunami

victims should be an inspiration for similarly strong action by Prime Minister Paul Martin to restore Canada's cancelled aid for poor countries to a level worthy of its citizens.

Mikko Salminen, president, Rencore Canada, Victoria

Assault made from the Canadian Forces, I am aware that we have a wonderful field surgical hospital along with field ambulance units. If India has ever been a time for such units to be deployed, it is now. The Canadian Forces have the best-trained medical. I'd be crazy to a helicopter to go over there and help.

Gordon Weinberg, Niagara Falls, Ont.

I am deeply moved by the compassion and generosity Canadians, and people world-wide, have shown towards the unfortunate victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. However, I wonder what the results would be if we were at national problems like poverty and homelessness with equal pain and rush. All the money in the world is never going to give back to the people of India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia what the water took away. But imagine what the results would be if Canadians donated equal sums to relieving poverty among our nation's poor. And what if the federal government matched those donations? No, we wouldn't reach poverty, but we'd make it a lot easier to live with dignity. If we would only do what we can for the people here at home, like we so often do for people abroad, maybe there could really be about what a good and generous nation we are.

Walt Roberts, Koda, B.C.

X marks the spot

I would like to congratulate Benoit Aubin for his great essay, "Les X croisés" (Quebec, Jan. 10). Finally, someone decided to explain the real motives behind CIBC Radio X's popularity and strong support from its listeners. Most of the articles that have been done before missed the point and made us (Les X) look like stupid sheep. There is a wave of change sweeping through Quebec City. Those who refuse to see it now have the expert sliding under their feet.

Jackie Willemssen, Sainte-Rose, Que.

Down on the farm

I sadly accused the year-in-review section in your Dec. 27 double issue for not word about the agricultural crisis in Canada, be-

it BSE, drought, flood or horrible prices for farm commodities (the last goes on). I think the omission notice that this might have been a more significant enough to mention ("2004 words and pictures"). I was wrong. I wonder if this omission has something to do with the fact that a primarily concerns people and events in western Canada.

Barbara Marshall, Moose Jaw, Sask.

Breaking a pledge

Sobha Majid is understandably unhappy about having to renounce allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II in order to be come a Canadian citizen. "Between here and there," Over to her, Jan. 10). I, too, immigrated from India and was similarly irritated by the requirement to pledge to "believe in the values of our allegiance" to both Queen and her laws and constitution. Although I became a Canadian many years ago, the oath never stopped bothering me and last spring I did something about it. At a recent event organized partly by the Citizens for a Canadian Republic,

an organization dedicated to the installation of a democratically selected Canadian as our head of state, I publicly renounced the oath of allegiance to the Queen while reaffirming the retention of the citizenship vows. I also mailed a notarized renunciation to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration so it could take note that at least one naturalized Canadian was completely devoid of allegiance and faithful solely to the members of a dysfunctional British family. I have recently received written assurance from the department that my status as a citizen is unaffected. Apparently, allegiance to a foreign monarch is a prerequisite of Canadian citizenship after all.

Joshua Charles, Toronto

I was amazed by part of Sobha Majid's column. Yes, being an immigrant has its paradoxes and contradictions. However, the worse that she thought she was "well rid of any special loyalties to the British or their monarchs." Well, that was before she decided to come to Canada. Canada, after all, is not India, and its rules, customs and culture are different. Majid goes on to write of the "enjoy" of having been colonized by the British. That isn't a holy mission why Canada is one of the best countries to live

in today. There are many other factors at play, of course, but the heritage that Her Majesty represents is a big reason why we immigrants still choose to come to Canada.

Guy Roberts, Surrey, B.C.

Quality patrol

Year Jan. 10 had several excellent articles, especially the many about education, "Is anybody there?" by Barbara Wilkerson, the Quebec issue, "Les X croisés" by Benoit Aubin (I was completely ignorant of this movement),



Debating whether new citizens need to swear allegiance to the Queen

"Hovers forever" by Brian D. Johnson (what a wonderful first piece—I wish I'd been there), and "The new about the new" by Peter Wells, plus numerous Paul Wells. These stories are why we subscribe to *Maclean's*. Please keep up the good reporting!

Bob Williamson, Peterborough, Ont.

No news

Paul Wells hit the nail right on the head in his column, "The news about the news" (This Back Page, Jan. 10). Missing from his column was the news that after 14 years as a full-time photographer at a daily newspaper, I think the newspaper is always the first to feel the heat of layoffs, mainly because we are non-union news producers. The publisher's answer is something along the lines of "we'll just have to do more with less," but everybody knows you only do less with less, and it's the readers who suffer in the end. Foreign ownership would be good for Canadian newspapers after years of their

being owned by Canadian owners, some of whom didn't live in Canada anyway.

Gina Bonaldi, Sudbury, Ont.

Banking behemoths

Patric G. Newman reports that by now withering empires, our banks have failed to establish the international trust to compete in the 21st century ("Big five, small players," Jan. 10). Over the past decade, banks are making more money, paying higher dividends and their international involvement is growing. Unfortunately, Canadian banks are known more for their failure in international finance than their success. They make up for these failures by squeezing their retail customers by ever-increasing charges and fees. I dread to think what would happen if retail charges after the banks are allowed to merge into one or two megabanks. In the rush not to compete globally, let us not forget that there needs to be enough banks to have competition and that their size must be meaningfully reduced.

to the size of Canada's national economy.

Basil Stelm, Calgary

Never-ending debate

Marriage has been traditionally defined as "the union of one man and one woman." This is accepted by the vast majority. ("The man and woman have performed the rite," Jan. 10, Dec. 24). Rather than screw up this definition, why not come up with a new word to describe the relationship of one man with one man, or one woman with one woman?

Peter O'Brien, Toronto, Ont.

The institution of marriage is strengthened when more people are allowed into it. Bittery Spence is a bigger threat to the institution than gay people.

Theresa Lammert, Winnipeg

Canada has proven, in one huge scandal, that it has taken the forefront in what constitutes a free and open society and has set another example of democracy in action. Now is the time to accept this evolutionary concept of marriage and continue to move forward in a people's support of our beliefs and values in the quest for the rights that have long been denied them.

Basil Kneib, Toronto

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MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



THE MUTUAL FUND CHALLENGE

As the Feb. 28 RRSP deadline approaches, Canadians are struggling with a crucial decision: how to invest their hard-earned dollars. The once-golden mutual fund industry has been beset with bad press and poor returns in recent years. So what's an investor to do? You'll find the answers in "Your Money: Maclean's Guide to Investing," a special editorial package in the magazine's Feb. 7 issue.

Again this year, we give you the hot 100 mutual funds, which provides specific, useful data in the form of rankings by fund category.

Contributor Steve Mach, Maclean's National Business Columnist, the magazine's National Business Correspondent Katherine Macklin and Assistant Editor Jela Intini look at key themes for fund selection in 2005, plus alternatives to mutual funds.

"We explore the pros and cons of key non-fund options, including cautions about claims made for mutual fund alternatives," says Editor-at-Large Joanne Pechner, who is supervising the package.

Many people have grown disillusioned with mutual funds, says Pechner. "Investors were led to believe that these products were the safest way to save for retirement, but they have discovered they're rife with fine print, fees and other pitfalls. We give you hard-hitting pieces that explain how and why some funds have disappointed and why most fund managers can't beat the stock index."

That, plus "My Money," in which investing professionals reveal how they invest and spend their money, makes the Guide to Investing essential reading for every Canadian investor.

"This is the second Maclean's service package to appear in 2005," notes Pechner. (The first — "Your Health" — ran in the Jan. 17 issue.) "Each section includes an 'Ask an Expert' feature, which invites readers to email us with their questions. The questions will be directed to experts — in this case, a financial adviser and Morningstar fund researcher/analyst. Look for the answers on www.macleans.ca."

For more information about this article, contact
behindthescenes@macleans.ca.

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Mansbridge on the Record



THE TSUNAMI TEST

The Southeast Asian disaster has given Paul Martin a chance to show his stuff

JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS, Paul Martin set down for the annual round of prime ministerial media interviews. These sessions rarely produce earth-shaking news, but the Prime Minister did have one revealing self-reflection. He agreed with what others had been saying for more than a year that he pondered too much, fretted over the decisions he had to make and asked far too many questions in the process. He promised he was going to change. Then off he went overseas on holiday and some time away from the hot-house that Ottawa can be. And then he was hit.

It didn't take long for his critics, both political and general, to say he should have come home immediately to handle Canada's response to the crisis. But he didn't, choosing to make the critical decisions from abroad. Within days, though, he was back, making major decisions and placing himself very much front and centre in managing the issue. Serious, determined, warm to Canadians, a commitment affected by the devastation on the other side of the world, a constant updating of what Canada was doing as both relief and rebuilding and now a war that works to reorganize itself. History will judge whether the decision to make the money spent and the forces deployed were the right ones, and on that there is much debate, but what can be said now is that Martin stepped in control.

Those who sawed the prospect of a Martin leadership had always maintained that he was the one others would follow, that he finds consensus and acts quickly and decisively. Much of that image seemed to have

in the early months after he got the job. The sponsorship scandal left him desperate to rid himself of his own party's most recent past. Then he allocated some of his colleagues by dumping them from cabinet or not protecting them in riding nomination battles. Finally, the election campaign raised questions about his substance and stamina, and he took left his party clinging to power and the man burnt out and almost beaten. In the weeks and months that followed, there were hints of a debate about how best to put the past in the past. Some insiders argued to let Martin be Martin—stop packaging himself as a strategy, but it's not that easy when policies and plans take months to develop. But an unexpected crisis is different—it's all about how quickly one reacts and how as an individual looks while doing it. In short, it's a much better opportunity to shake up your own.

The past few weeks have presented just such an opportunity. His critics say he and his government blew it, moving too slowly and making some questionable calls, while others, including at least two thirds of the Canadian people—if polling on the issue is to be believed—find the opposite. Whoever is right, we may just have witnessed the moment Paul Martin really became prime minister, a period in which he was no longer dealing with past issues, a past leader's problems, even past actions of his own in finance minister. Instead, for the most part, he was clearly making the decisions and representing the country on a lacking issue of major international consequence. Prime ministers are often judged and their leadership style formed by the way they handle the completely unexpected—and the outcome may turn out to have been that moment for Paul Martin.

Paul Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC television News and Anchor of the national 10-commentary news show.

FaceTime



Hockey Swisher It was destined in and destined in. The 17-year-old Nova Scotia phenom cried at the loss of his prima ballerina. He also cried at the loss of his prima ballerina. He also cried at the loss of his prima ballerina. He also cried at the loss of his prima ballerina.

Mailbox in small-town Lethbridge, Que. The 17-year-old Nova Scotia phenom cried at the loss of his prima ballerina. He also cried at the loss of his prima ballerina. He also cried at the loss of his prima ballerina. He also cried at the loss of his prima ballerina.



Hill Harry It's not good form for any well-brought-up 20-year-old to wear a Nazi uniform to a costume party. But when you're third in line to the throne and your grandfather, the Queen, is about to embark on a major Holocaust

commemoration, playing dress-up with Harry's wilkins is colossal bad judgment. Prince Harry—Charles and the late Diana's rebel son—did apologize. The hope now is that his misadventure will knock some sense into him.



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UPFRONT

WORLD

COLP FALLOUT Sir Mark Thatcher, the advertisement and son of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, pleaded guilty in a South African court to unwittingly helping finance a failed coup in which Equatorial Guinea. He was fined the equivalent of \$410,000 and handed a four-year suspended sentence. The prosecution accepted his story that he leased a high-powered helicopter for close friend Simon Mann, a former special forces commander now in jail, not knowing it might be used for a military purpose. Thatcher has been scrutinized before for alleged arms sales to Saudi Arabia and Iraq, back when his mother was in power.

IRAQ Muslim insurgents ambushed and killed Baghdad's deputy police chief and also a top aide to Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most senior Shi'ite cleric—heightening fears of sectarian retaliation between majority Shia and minority Sunni groups after the Jan. 30 elections. A Sunni group claimed responsibility for the attack on the grand ayatollah's aide.

In another Iraq news, the White House formally acknowledged it has ended the hunt for weapons of mass destruction and is disbanding its 1,200-member search team.

IRIDULE KAS? So-called moderate Mahmoud Abbas harshly won the Palestinian leadership, and an invitation to Washington to



SAGGY BAGGAGE Sculptor Michael Horvath (right) is a mostly built of suitcases, to replace the temporary steel plant, around his art "The Baggage Handler" in Manhattan, N.Y. City council apparently hadn't realized it had commissioned a work of a middle-aged man in his full drooping glory and is now crying foul.

talk peace. But he does not appear to have won over hard-core militants: three suicide attacks killed six Israeli soldiers and resulted in Israel once again sealing off the Gaza border. Israel, however, said it would hold off stronger retaliation to give Abbas a chance to rein in militant groups. But

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is refusing to meet with Abbas until he shows he is in control.

UKRAINE Orange revolutionaries Viktor Yushchenko, declared the official winner of the Dec. 26 presidential vote, now faces tough choices. Regarded as a West-leaning liberal, Yushchenko must decide whether to pull troops from Iraq—around 1,450 Ukrainians are there—as the country's parliament voted to do.

ESCAPED A junior air force officer, jailed for his role in a well-known assassination plot by Marxist militants against Palawan President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., escaped from jail near Islamabad several weeks ago, authorities revealed last week. The assassin on plot was blamed on low-ranking army and air force officers and the escape has fueled new concern about Musharraf's safety.

COLD WAR Can a spy ring when he's been double crossed? A former Soviet Bloc spy—he's a former diplomat—is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to allow their case to be heard. The two claim the CIA renege on a promise to look after them for life after the husband lost his job in a Seattle-area bank.

BY MICHAEL DE AGUIAR



PILING LIES CBS fired four news managers after an independent panel blamed them for "myopic" in producing a mid-election report that questioned George W. Bush's military record. Retiring anchor Don Rader had already apologized for the 40 Minutes News, which is now said to have relied on uncorroborated documents. He was criticized by the panel for not participating in the development of such an important story before he bowed out.

FURY Mother Nature unleashed her rage all over the globe. Weeks of rain produced deadly mudslides in California hill towns, killing at least 21 people. Flood storms, said to be the worst in a century in some places, swamped northern Europe from Ireland to Russia, while in southern Australia, fast-burning bush fires claimed eight lives.

HEALTH

GENETHERAPY In a daring test, 10 Canadian patients with severe lung disease and less than a year to live have agreed to undergo gene therapy and stem cell treatments to try to grow new blood vessels in the lungs. The technique has worked on lab animals, but gene therapy experiments were halted world-wide in 2003 after French doctors reported **unintended consequences** while trying to genetically alter the immune system of kids with "bubble boy disease": two of the patients developed leukemias.

ATTENTION DEFICIT Health Canada has approved the first non-stimulant to treat hyperactive kids with attention deficit disorder. A journalist told *Radio*, the new drug, *Strattera*, failed to qualify as an antidepressant during clinical trials but has won advocates among some pediatricians. It comes with a warning about possible liver damage.

CANADA

GOMORY It was his first media interview in 23 years as a Quebec judge and may well be his last. Justice John Gomory, who heads the independent inquiry into the sponsor ship scandal, told the *National Post* just

before Christmas that the controversial program was run in a "catastrophically bad way" and that the be-
nevolent charges was "a charming scam." Now lawyers for five over-
paid minister Jean Charest and his chief of staff Jean Pelletier charge that Gomory has already made up his mind before all the evidence was, they argue he should be removed from the inquiry.



POLICE Senior Toronto police officers who engage in undercover or other front-line work will be required to undergo mandatory drug and psychological testing, outgoing Chief Johnathan Fanning has decreed. A controversial proposal, it provokes a scandal involving the force's old drug squad, and is opposed by the Toronto police union.

MEDICARE Alberta Premier Ralph Klein began a cross-country tour to promote what he calls a new "third way" to deal with the problems of health care. One option, he said, is to concentrate on a wider range of public services to private clinics and use public money to pay for that.

MOBILE DEFENCE Retiring U.S. ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci said he expects the Harper government will sign on to Washington's controversial **mobile defense** program by the time he leaves in March.

EXECUTIVE PAY World Networks Corp. reported an overblown profit from key quarters in 2002 and 2003 and blamed three short-fired up bosses for authorizing costly accounting rules that triggered massive executive bonuses. As part of a come-clean policy, 12 senior managers will voluntarily forgo \$568.6 million in bonuses.

INTERNET PHARMACIES Manitoba Premier Gary Doer threw a wrench into Ottawa's plan to get Internet pharmacies, saying they're good corporate citizens and that he may fight the feds in court for trying to encourage provincial jurisdiction over health.

UNDER THE GUN Prompted by what some call traditional "hoax" legends, and the fact that hungry polar bears are tearing the streets of Arctic hamlets, the government of Nunavut has authorized a 38 per cent increase in the polar bear quota this year, for a total kill of 518 bears. Many of the animals will be shot by wealthy foreign hunters on tourist junkets.



KA-BOOM

It's a U.S. comic-booker with a Hollywood-style Deep Impact—and a little bit of science in its mission. The small spacecraft, supposed to rendezvous on July 4, America's big holiday, with an unassuming comet called Tempel 1—and blow its nuts out, as in the actor's decision. The plan is to "set up for scientific study of the comet—this comet's an incredible case, space stuff don't blow things out of the sky. That raises the question: what if it means?

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**'MR. NOLTE NEVER
TALKED TO ME.
I FEEL SLIGHTED.'**

When you see the massive public support for Israeli victims, does it make you wonder where it was during the Palestinian genocide? The first gut reaction is exactly that: I felt even in a more raucous fashion with 9/11.

where there were only 3,000 dead. I take great heart in the human participation in such an outpouring—there's the sense that people do count. However, where I have difficulty is that governmental structures, not

That natural humans can be transformed by the power of a corrupt philosophy, and by fear.

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THE TSUNAMIS NEXT FRONT

Hunger and infection are now the big killers, writes CHARLIE GILLIS

IT DOESN'T LOOK like a life-threatening wound. The cut on Nurbayem Affari's left foot spans less than three inches from the top of her big toe, and in a town where 90 per cent of the inhabitants were swallowed by the sea, that makes her an enormously lucky woman. A police smile crosses the 34-year-old's face as the results clinging to a palm tree while salt water and debris swept up her neighborhood—Samarang even tragically with a smile. But the darkness as the tale goes on.

Affari's nine-month-old baby girl disappeared in the tsunami, she says, along with most of her family in Mahayana, a seaside town of 5,000 that was obliterated by the waves. She's been camped ever since on a hillside high above the wreckage, mourning the loss of her child and watching the ocean from a safe distance. Now, two weeks after a harmful mite bled her cut and threw a fatal dose of penicillin tablets into her hand, Affari's wound has taken a turn for the worse. "The bloody blood coming out," she says, staring at the cut, which she thinks was caused by a strip of roofing material. The bandage is brown with dirt and seepage, and when asked if the under-stands the threat of infection, Affari answers with a distant smile. "I hope it gets better," she says, "because I have no way to get to the city for help."

The legendary cheer of Samarang is a disarming cultural trait—a peace even this colossal tragedy can't seem to erode. But in the remote coastal villages of Aceh, where little aid has reached survivors, the smiles stand in disturbing contrast to the ear-splitting wailing. Huddled in ragged camps



Desperately ill from infection, this girl is rushed to hospital for treatment

that line the island's northern coastline, or scattered hundreds of kilometers from proper medical facilities on the province's west coast, thousands are surviving on sporadic shipments of rice and noodles, ignoring the minor wounds they suffered when the waves crashed through their communities. They are, as a result, stalked by infection and hunger, which makes their small communities a potential second front of the campaign to save lives in the wake of the Dec. 26 tsunami.

It doesn't take an epidemiologist to spot the danger: each day since the disaster, brigades of Acehese have been wading through the stormy grime where their villages once stood, searching for valuables or the remains of loved ones and oblivious to the health risks. Many walk in flip-flops or even bare feet, ankle deep in a soup that can transform from the slightest cut into a fatal injury. At the field hospitals in Banda Aceh, where the most seriously injured are taken for treatment, amputations have already become the most common operation. "We've got people who've had festering wounds for up to two weeks now," says Howard Arfin, a Canadian Red Cross worker in Banda Aceh. "Really, these are wounds that shouldn't require such an extreme response."

For a desperate few in outlying communities, relief is proving the key to survival. Each morning, United States, Malay, Singaporean and Indonesian military helicopters lift off from Banda Aceh's airport and terra with the sick or wounded from remote northwestern communities. The injuries can be deceptively slow to surface: last week in Luan No, a small coast fishing village cut off by the tsunami, a man saved his five-year-old daughter to town on a bicycle trailer because she suddenly began having fits. Medics were summoned until they heard she'd inhaled seawater after being engulfed by the tsunami waves. The brain, it turned out, had left a residue of gummy sand in her lungs, which was now clogging her airways. By noon, her prognosis was critical, and as day lay gasping beside the village school field, a U.S. Seahawk helicopter swooped in to pick her up and take her away for treatment.

In the area of governance, though, a different claim claims no headway. By early last week, says U.S. doctors and aid workers were reaching the worst-hit towns along the

west coast, and a few locations even had clean running water. The Red Cross managed to get floor-to-ceiling water purification units into the hard-hit city of Meulaboh, about 200 kilometers south of Banda Aceh, allowing medical staff to properly launder wounds for the first time. The tanks arrived thanks to a Lidenair helicopter company, which used its heavy lifting choppers to move them. "We tried to touch them," says Arfin. "The road was just too muddy."

In some remote areas, survivors have clearly given up hope of aid reaching them. For most of last week, columns of refugees could be seen from the air walking the broken highway along Sumatra's northwest coast. A Meulaboh photographer met about 80 as they reached the last broken lodge outside Banda Aceh, having trudged 300 km from their village. "We've been eating coconuts and drinking from streams all the

'THE BEST way to ensure help reaches us is for the foreign aid groups to bring it directly to our door.'

way," said their 40-year-old leader, Kurniadin, 40 years. "Our village is gone. There's nothing close to eat. There was no reason for us to stay."

Those who have stayed behind in refugee camps, meanwhile, are getting increasingly restless. Several of the roughly 350 Indonesians at a high school in Luan Noyay that group is receiving only two loaves, or 80 packets, of instant noodles per day—while up to a dozen helicopters land every day with food and medical supplies and daily in the village. Their patience snapped last week when Gen Bambang Purnomo, Indonesia's commander of operations in Aceh, stood through their camp, boasting to reporters that Jakarta was managing the crisis well. Skipped by the general's lieutenants, refugees poured out that government troops are the ones who would and displace the aid—a now-widespread suggestion that soldiers are diverting it to the black market. "I don't want anything the government tells us," says Anna Sulaksana, a 50-year-old tailor acting as a spokesman for the refugees. "The best way to ensure help reaches us is for the foreign aid groups to



THE REBELS NEVER REST

Hopes for peace may have been premature

THE TRUCE, SUCH AS IT WAS, was bound to be short-lived. No sooner had the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) declared a break in its 25-year guerrilla campaign against the Indonesian government than rumors began swirling that the rebels were back on the march, and workers—whose work the deal was supposed to facilitate—reports of gunshots in Banda

Aceh, while tales of rebel soldiers stopping aid shipments circulated throughout the region.

The free-swinging bycatchers, according to the GAM's ability to spread uncertainty throughout western Sumatra—even as its fortunes decline. Since its inception in 1976, the separatist group has given a distinct edge to the neglected view in Aceh that Jakarta remains little in exchange for the revenue it extracts from the region's oil and gas, and that the government betrays the province's more traditional Islamic identity. A crackdown in 1977 brought a decade of military peace, but the resistance resurfaced in the early '90s, prompting the government to send in troops and wage a brutal war. There were hopes for a peace plan after the fall of Indonesia's long-time president, Suharto, in 1998. But the talks broke down,

and in 2001 Aceh's elected ruler fell in the region.

Now the tsunami will affect the conflict remains a subject of intense speculation in Aceh. Some thought the disaster would give the rebels an opening, as it claimed the lives of thousands of government troops and consumed Jakarta's attention. But the GAM has suffered its own setbacks: dozens of its members are believed to have died via plane crashes on the path of the waves, while army troops have poured into the region to assist with recovery. More importantly, many communities had served as a cash pipeline for the rebels are gone. "For years, they've pressured the coastal villages for money," says Rendi Dohia, a former senior official of Aceh's

provincial government and a neutral observer of the conflict.

"Now those villages are gone, so what are they going to eat? I suspect they're severely weakened, possibly even finished."

The GAM could regain public support if Jakarta bolsters the recovery effort, Dohia says. But while many Acehese resent the central government, they're also lost patience with the rebel separatists' methods. Almost everyone who remains in Banda Aceh has received late-night house calls from GAM members demanding money. Time was they might have given. But money is precious to Acehese these days, and at a time when many must rebuild their lives, rebels look low on the list of beneficiaries. CG

A war to preserve lives has ended in Aceh, where the tsunami was feared



bring it directly to our door."

Relief groups, of course, would be happy to oblige. But it's become increasingly clear they're less than entirely welcome in Aceh. Last week, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced that international workers must wrap up their efforts within three months and get out of the country—a timeline that defies logic to anyone who has seen the scale of destruction along the coastline. In the meantime, all foreign—journalists, soldiers and relief staff alike—must now register with local police before travelling outside Banda Aceh in Aceh, a restriction assembly meant to protect them from separatist rebels in the area.

For those stranded in nothing but mud and

After Banda Aceh, two victims of the tsunami cluster await burial

villages, the time limit is bad news indeed. While it's generally accepted Banda Aceh will rebuild (it's the fastest centre to be redeveloped and gas reserved), there are no such guarantees for remote communities, many of which saw more than half their buildings washed away when the tsunami swept through. Without the outside lifeline of foreign military helicopters, and international overnight aid on a very tight, they'll be at the mercy of a government with which they've been at odds since the 1990s, and which was initially reluctant to even acknowledge the scale of destruction caused by the waves. Will Jakarta send its helicopters to transport them in medical emergencies? Will the government

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

A guide to the charities Canadians support—and what they do with the funds

THE GENEROSITY of Canadians in the wake of Dec. 26's tsunami disaster was immediate and unprecedented, with hundreds of millions donated to relief funds. After they gave, many wanted to know more about what will happen with their donated money, and about the charitable groups that are spending it. Although the information in this chart is the best available data, there are some problems, particularly in ascertaining how money is spent. Different charities calculate these stats in different ways. For example, in small groups where everyone does a little bit of everything, pinpointing out fundraising from administration costs is challenging. There's also an assumption that a charity that spends most of its budget on charitable work is better than one with high office costs. But office costs can include, say, cost-effective educational packages.

There's no way to know, just from the numbers, that it's charity that spends most of its money in the field (though effective—we can only hope). Also, the international affiliations of these groups can create some apples-and-oranges situations. In 2005, Oxfam gave \$96.5 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), a non-profit through UNICEF Canada. Had these funds gone through the Canadian arm, its overall budget would have been almost five times larger, and its office costs, as a percentage of the total, would have been considerably lower. But what's all that information if key for Canadians eager to learn about the charities they support. More can be gleaned from the groups' own websites or annual reports, as well as from the Canada Revenue Agency's website, www.cra-arc.gc.ca. **BATHING MACLELL**

CHARITIES (RANKED BY RELIEF DONATION TOTALS)	TSUNAMI RELIEF PERSONAL DONATION AS OF JAN. 15*	WHERE TSUNAMI MONEY ENDS UP	CHARITY'S TOP AREAS OF WORK	EMPLOYEES (FULL PART)	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (2005)	% SPENT ON CHARITABLE WORK	ADMINISTRATION	PROGRAMS	
Canadian Red Cross	\$205.2 million	Medical supplies, water pumps, portable waterheaters, hygiene kits, blankets	Disease/veter relief, medical services, education	1,234	6,376	\$194.2 million	84.3%	5.1%	80.1%
World Relief Canada	\$75 million	Rebuilding schools and medical clinics, temporary housing, water purification	Disease/veter relief, literacy/education, medical services	382	88	\$129.9 million	81.7%	6%	17%
UNICEF Canada	\$11.5 million	Emergency shelter, clean water, food, shelter, rebuilding projects	Health services, medical services, literacy/education	86	252	\$24.5 million	61.8%	8.0%	13.7%
Canadian Catholic Org. for Development and Peace	\$8.5 million	Rebuilding schools, sanitation, water, food, shelter, rebuilding projects	Health services, agriculture, disaster/veter relief	76	8	\$25.4 million	73.2%	10.4%	1%
International Central Committee Canada	\$6 million	Medical and water equipment, food, clothing, disaster reconstruction	Disease/veter relief, literacy/education, social services	95	40	\$20.6 million	95.7%	4.2%	0.5%
Oxfam Canada	\$5.7 million	Water supply, purification and sanitation, plastic sheeting for shelter, mosquito nets	Agriculture, social services, disaster/veter relief	45	6	\$84.6 million	74.5%	5.9%	11.4%
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee	\$3.3 million	Shelter, fishing boats and equipment, medical kits, food, water	Disease/veter relief, literacy/education, agriculture	30	3	\$2.7 million	90.2%	7%	28%
CARE Canada	\$2.8 million	Sanitation, water purification, oral rehydration and family survival kits, blankets	Disease/veter relief, social services, literacy/education	305	5	\$176.4 million	97.1%	1.5%	1.2%
Salvation Army	\$2.1 million	Food, water, shelter, community rebuilding, medical services	Homeless shelters, food banks, disaster/veter relief	11,080	n/a	\$450 million	14%	36%	4%
Can. Centre for International Studies and Co-operation	\$1.6 million	Rebuilding schools and clinics, food, medical, water	Economic development, social services, disaster relief	74	5	\$15.5 million	85.9%	12.4%	0.5%
Save the Children Canada	\$1.4 million	Shelters including family size tents, medical kits, fishing equipment	Literacy/education, social services	38	13	\$16 million	72.7%	18%	12.8%
Doctors Without Borders	\$1 million	Medical personnel and equipment, mobile health clinics, disaster surveillance	Disease/veter relief, medical services, public education	27	16	\$15 million	61.7%	3.5%	15.4%
Oxfam Quebec	\$100,000	Water supply, purification and sanitation, plastic sheeting for shelter, mosquito nets	Agriculture, social services, disaster/veter relief	18	8	\$27.2 million	83.8%	6.5%	6.4%
Focus Homeless Assistance Canada	\$750,000	Food, water, medical, rebuilding infrastructure	Disease/veter relief, social services, emergency aid	117	218	\$5 million	94.8%	4.2%	8.4%
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	\$515,000	Home, school and lighting, health reconstruction, school supplies, food	Agriculture, literacy/education, infrastructure development	13	13	\$4.2 million	93%	2%	6.0%
Provision for World Survival & Development	\$415,000	Emergency food and water, blankets, clothing, shelter, removal of bodies	Literacy/education, medical services, social services	5	8	\$2.8 million	88.6%	9.5%	4.2%
Provision's World Relief and Development Fund	\$420,000	Home reconstruction, educational kits, income generating, tools, seeds	Social services	28	8	\$5 million	89%	7.5%	2.0%

open its vaults to help rebuild their homes?

The need is great. Haradish Ratalu, a 45-year-old widow from a village near the west coast city of Calcutta, is now in that city's military hospital. Propping herself by a window, she wears the obligatory sari when introduced to a visitor, recalling how she was airlifted to Bandra. Atch with a pus-filled gash on her forehead. But her face crumples when asked when she plans to return to her hometown. "I don't ever go to a refugee camp," she says through tears. "My husband, my son, my seven-year-old, my two grandsons—they're all gone. I'd like to stay in my village, but I have no house to go to. Why would anyone go back?"

It's hard to think of a response, beyond the obvious point that refugee camps tend to be sad, ugly, generic places prone to rapidly spreading illness. When children of living in such circumstances is more appealing than going home, it's testimony to a level of misery few with a roof and a family can fathom. For now, Samarans may smile in the face of this disaster—as they do with any misfortune. How long they'll be able to maintain their outward cheer in the face of such tragedy is another question. ☐

Many sustained serious injuries—the water-cumulated Dalpois for child Haradish.

NO CURE FOR MISERY

Patients are refusing life-saving surgery

IT'S NOT A PLACE for the faint of heart. The southwest coast of India's Army military hospital has a few more patients than doctors, but the international team running this place—mainly Indonesians, with support from the Australian military—wage a daily battle to keep death at bay. Samarans can be as depressing as failure: more than two weeks after the tsunami wiped out many of the surrounding homes, the hospital is full of amputees—victims of injuries or, more recently, the infections that ravage the cuts and a broken body suffered.



For days after the disaster, this was the only place to turn for people like Dalpois. Hasan, whose seven-year-old daughter, Dalpois, had her knee crushed by a log after being carried on an astonishing eight kilometers from her home. Hasan figures the tree saved Dalpois's life because it protected her from falling logs. But the price was high, and today she rests on a cot in the hospital's broomway, swiveling away from a steady jabbing of the bandaged stump where her leg used to be. It's a heart-wrenching scene, but preferable to the Alternative hospital's life-or-death more and more. As many as 20 per cent of the patients needing surgery are simply refusing treatment, says Capt. Greg

Drews, an Australian army nurse in charge of emergency services at the hospital. She leaves doctors and medical staff with little alternative but to provide palliative care as the patients slide toward death.

Watching them do so often is the humanitarian spirit, the doctors. But after two weeks of trying to massage the physical and mental trauma that the tsunami unleashed on an orphans Samarans, Brown has become philosophical. "If I'd lost my wife, my kids, and my means of making a living," he says, "and then someone said they wanted to take off one of my arms and one of my legs, I think I just might take my chances." C.G.

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IT'S A MAD WORLD

Another case of BSE in Alberta threatens a plan to reopen the border



IT'S BECOME an all-too-familiar spectacle: A Canadian cow tests positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, better known as mad cow disease. The results are duly announced, along with Minister reassurances from politicians, government regulators and cattle industry representatives. The discovery, they say, comes as no surprise and simply proves Canada's surveillance system is working as it should. The meat from the infected animal never entered the food chain and posed no—now stress that, no-risk to human health. And, oh yes, the Americans will be reopening their border to live Canadian cattle very, very soon.

It happened again last week when, for the fourth time since May 2000—and the second in less than two weeks—authorities confirmed that a Canadian-born cow had BSE. But there were some new plot twists. Unlike previous cases, the infected animal, a six-year-old beef cow from a farm near Inuvik, Alta., had been born after Canada revisited a 1997 ban on feeding rendered cattle meat and bone meal back to live cattle and other cud-chewing ruminants—a move touted as a blow against the spread of BSE. The breaching of that firewall sparked renewed criticism that Canada's food ban was insufficient and poorly enforced. It also gave fresh ammunition to protectionist forces in the United States, which are threatening to block a move by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reopen the border to live Canadian cattle under 30 months of age as of March 7.

Critics of existing cattle feeding practices

feed produced prior to the 1997 ban was not recalled and was fed to animals for months.

have said for years that Canada was asking for trouble. The 1997 ban, introduced in tandem with the U.S., failed to follow the example of Britain—a country devastated by over 180,000 confirmed BSE cases in the mid-1980s as well as 146 human fatalities due to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), a brain disorder linked to eating BSE-infected beef. Britain banned cattle parts from all animal feed. In North America, by

CRITICS OF feeding practices have said for years that the ban was insufficient and Canada was inviting trouble

contrast, bone and meat meal from cattle could still be mixed into feed intended for other farm animals, such as pigs and chickens, which, in turn, could be rendered and fed back to cattle.

What's more, cattle feed produced prior to the 1997 ban did not get recalled and was fed to animals for months, if not years, afterwards. Investigators said last week it's possible it was this sort of contaminated feed that first fueled William Voth's paraded in good faith in 1998 and then gave to the latest mad cow victim and more than 100 other head of cattle.

Ottawa is now planning to introduce a

meat recycling prohibition, leaving most cattle parts—with the possible exception of blood and blood products—out of all animal feed. But some fear the damage has already been done. "I find it sobering, and disturbing, to learn of the power in the feed ban," says Neil Calkins, a University of Toronto medical professor who specializes in neurodegenerative diseases, including BSE and vCJD. Others are even more censorious. John Butcher, executive director of the Wisconsin-based Center for Meat and Democracy and co-author of the 1997 book, *Mad Cow USA: Could the Nightmare Happen Here?*, maintains corporate greed has trumped public health concerns. "The dirty fact," says Butcher, "is that policy is being set to keep feed costs low for the benefit of the biggest livestock and food industry players."

The official U.S. reaction to Canada's latest mad cow case was fairly muted, with the White House signaling no change, for now, in the plan to lift the ban on Canadian cattle. But vocal members of the U.S. Congress, charged with reviewing the new proposal, are insisting the house and cow discovery proves Canada's beef supply is inherently unsafe and the border should stay shut. That strikes many observers as a bit much, given the fact that, if anything, feed prohibitions and BSE surveillance in Canada are no more lax than in the U.S. As Stasheff points out, lobbyists for an open border now joke that "it's like saying your own sector is ugly." Then again, whoever said logic ruled in the mad cow world of cattle politics?



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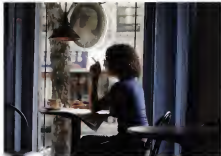


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SAYING NO TO CIGARETTES

Quebec's proposed smoking ban is part of a plot

IT WAS A well kept secret, but not any more. The reason seemed so clear to be waving in Quebec was that Quebecers had moved on to a more, more aggressive strategy: they'd elected to conquer Canada instead—by stealthily exporting their finesse and off-the-cuff middle Quebecer to the rest of the land. The plan was simple: being contagious was being unstoppable, and it worked beyond imagination. Witness, a flap over flags in Newfoundland, Ontario contemplating selling beer and wine in corner stores, Western seaports on the rise.

A key part of that strategy was to stack the House of Commons with a delegation of upstarters. The heads holding the balance of power. Now, even the federal government has been compromised. The Immigration Department has been doing its best to help other Canadians sample what has long been a Montreal staple—crazy hip dances making contact with customers

in ill-fitted, smoke-filled bars.

But the announcement by the Quebec government that smoking in public places will soon be a thing of the past has thrown a wrench into the conspiracy. Health Minister Philippe Couillard said last week that anti-smoking laws are similar to those currently enforced in Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver—are not a matter of if, but how soon. That has sent the herd of bearded, left-leaning, barbeque-topping separatist intellectuals who populate Montreal's fabled cafes after lunch (while anglos and immigrants are at work) scrambling for their authorized Cigarettes. To them, the message is clear: the conspiracy has been found out, Canada is fighting back.

One more come, the image remains of the District Society had undertaken the effort of the then reigning Minister for

They have, of course, been dancing from Day One that the Chateau government is out to "destroy Quebec's culture"—by trimming welfare payments to able bodied jobbing with their parents, raising tuition fees to the fraction of the national average, and so on. But the government's strategy: that banning smoking, in bars, schools and in entrances to office buildings, is something else. Doing it under cover of secrecy and deception is, well, *trousser*.

That the smoking ban was announced peremptorily out of concern for public health has fooled no one. This same government maintains a tobacco monopoly and has its hands on gambling in the province—and is making a very aggressive job

of running these addictive, socially disruptive, health threatening rackets. Some 1,300 employees of the Société des Alcools du Québec have been on strike for nine weeks now, but the government was able to hang tough and keep enough shops open through out the holiday season to cash in on 80 per cent of its usual business from long lines of jumpy customers, despite the police's concerns over public health? A decision to build a much needed super-hospital in Montreal has been met in controversy for years—over its location. So, come on... the real motivation for this smoking ban is purely political: reversing the conspiracy process initiated by Quebec separatists. Someone had to sue Canada—and with half the federal cabinet chasing photo ops

in Southwest Asia and the other half under subpoena at the Convent inquiry, the job went to the Quebec Liberals.

That Toronto thing—being unable to consume a coffee, a cigarette and a newspaper simultaneously, except in the secrecy of your bedrooms, spouse permitting, or at the far end of the parking lot after 3 a.m.—will have far reaching cultural and political consequences as it is implemented in Montreal. Connoisseurs wearing running shoes with dresses, or people shopping a wine-soaked lunch in order to work more, be far behind?

And then what? Low-carb diets grow? **W**

Optimism, as always, with discipline in downright *trousser*

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SELLING ETHICS AT NORTEL

The company's paeans to integrity drip with irony for shareholders

THE TIME HAD FINALLY ARRIVED for Bill Owens to demonstrate to the world that things are different at Nortel Networks. After 15 months of investigating alleged accounting abuses by former executives, who ended accused of fudging their numbers to cash in millions in personal bonuses, the chief executive was ready at last to present three years of corrected earnings reports. But writing straight the historical record wasn't the most pressing issue he faced on this day. His listeners wanted to know about the future, not the past. Owens knew that to salvage what's left of his company's reputation and its business, he'd have to

produce something symbolic, a clear signal of change to regain the trust of investors, regulators and customers.

For that, he turned to Susan Shepard, a New York lawyer with a stellar reputation for challenging the misdeeds of powerful people. A former federal prosecutor, she will be the company's new chief ethics officer, reporting to Owens and the board. "The fact that our first chief ethics officer is an individual of this caliber... is testimony to our commitment to the highest standards of ethics and integrity and of our company's operations," Owens told reporters on a conference call last week.

It was exactly the kind of emphatic statement investors wanted. It said a new regime, worthy of the public's trust, was in charge.

The next day, business press and investor advocates lauded Shepard's appointment. Everything was perfect, except for one thing: Susan Shepard isn't the company's first ethics guru. That distinction belongs to Megan Barry, who served as Nortel's senior ethics adviser between 1994 and 1999.

"What can I say? Peoples' memories are short," Barry says with a laugh from her office in Newville, where she now heads the ethics and compliance effort for a U.S. health-care firm. She isn't bitter about being forgotten, though. In fact, she's glad to see Nortel re-dedicating itself to ethics—a field in which it was once viewed a world leader.

During her time with the telecom equipment maker, Barry wrote the company's corporate code of conduct, called "Acting with Integrity." She also established an internal hotline that employees could call anonymously

monthly for guidance and to report wrong doing. But much of her time was spent traveling around the world to speak at conferences on Nortel's exemplary commitment to ethical business practices. Once she even testified before Congress on the subject.

By the time she left, however, Nortel wasn't really a trailblazer in ethics anymore. When John Roth took over as CEO in 1997, her department grew increasingly invisible within the organization. "When the senior leadership changed, you definitely saw a de-emphasis of ethics," she says. "Both's legacy is what Nortel has to deal with today."

And that is a sorry legacy to be sure. The code of conduct Barry wrote remained official company policy after the merger, but that's little in Nortel's history to suggest any

one year ago, those words read like the pendulum to a sureistic tale. Every line in the code practically drips with irony—the bitter kind for shareholders, who were devastated when the company's last week revealed. Furthermore, the change of a new ethics officer and the rediscovery of Nortel's ethical roots comes about five years too late.

Even the experts in responsible corporate management who welcomed the appointment agree that investors have a right to be just a little bit skeptical. Ethical leadership doesn't come from words on a page or from putting a senior executive in charge of compliance. In fact, according to David Wilson, president of EthicalSource Canada, a corporate consultancy in Toronto, companies that have ethics officers and written codes of conduct are just as likely to face scandals as those that don't. You can make all the rules you want, he says, but a company is only as ethical as the people it employs and the culture it fosters. Norton points to Enron as a prime example. The energy trader had a corporate ethics policy, whistle blower protection and an ethics professor in its board,

but none of that did any good when executives were determined to deceive.

For that reason alone, it's easy to doubt the sincerity of Nortel's ethical rebirth. Barry, however, is hopeful. She says the new ethics officer will have more power than

any ever did, since Shepard will report to the board and the CEO. More importantly, Shepard has a "captivate audience," because Nortel's senior managers know another case could literally be the company's death.

But Shepard's presence at an installation against malfeasance. Integrity isn't a switch, and corporate cultures don't turn overnight. Megan Barry knows Nortel's reputation won't be destroyed by a few greedy executives. It struggled over years of willful neglect. Rebuilding will take even longer.

Read Steve March's writing "All Business" at www.usbiz.com/stories/040602sm01



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COLD FRONT

Have the sniffles? Try the celebrity cure that Don Cherry, Michael Burgess and Margaret Atwood swear by.

IN A RECENT Q&A in the Montreal magazine *Messagerie*, Margaret Atwood gave her interviewers some unsolicited advice on how to deal with a cold. "You need to travel with a product called COLD-IX," declares Canada's doyenne. "It's useful/loosely played. It's a Canadian product, it's excellent." It's very potent, right? At the first sniffle, take three of those? "Sometimes it's like that one money in the bank for executives at CV Technologies Inc., the Edmonton start-up that has sold more than a decade and \$15 million developing a herbal remedy for colds and flu. And the celebrity converts just keep coming in. Michael Burgess, the Toronto actor who starred in the Canadian production of *Les Misérables*, is

a satisfied customer. As are Clara Hughes, the Olympic medal-winning cyclist and speed skater, and any number of NHL players, including Edmonton Oilers captain Jason Smith and Montreal Canadiens centre Yanic Perron.

Then there's Don Cherry. Company officials learned last year that the volatile broadcaster had been taking COLD-IX to ward off the dreaded cold he's endured since childhood. So CV Technologies CEO Josephine Shan approached Cherry, who agreed to become an official spokesman for

According to Shan, a scientist and co-discoverer, the product works by boosting the immune system cells that help fight colds and flu. In an attempt to back up that claim, COLD-IX has undergone seven clinical trials, an unusually high number for an herbal remedy, the most recent completed this fall. Led jointly by Gerry Preddy, chief medical officer for Edmonton's Capital Health Region, and University of Alberta biochemist Tapan Bista, the study followed 323 adults, ages 18 to 65, who had a history of at least two upper respiratory infections in the

previous year. Half took two COLD-IX capsules a day for a four-month period last winter. The other half received a placebo. "While COLD-IX didn't ward off every

infection, those taking it suffered 45 per cent fewer colds than the placebo group, and the severity of their symptoms was cut by almost a third. Blood tests on the COLD-IX group also revealed heightened levels of certain white blood cells, considered key in fighting off viral infections.

Preddy admits that, like many medical professionals, he's often skeptical of claims made about natural health products. But he was impressed by CV Technologies' research record, including two earlier trials that showed 193 smokers at the U.S. nursing homes enduring much lower rates of



Shan is her Edmonton lab, using cold-ill North American gingivitis.

infections after taking COLD-IX. Such security is possible, adds Preddy, because the company's own profiling technology, known as ChemBioPrint, can detect the multiple components in the capsules and ensure standardized dosages in each batch. And while Preddy doesn't see COLD-IX as a replacement for annual flu shots, he says its ability to boost the immune system means "there is potential for the two to work together."

For the Chinese-born Shan, 41, who holds a doctorate in pharmacology from a university in Beijing and another in physiology from the University of Alberta, chasing

a cure for the common cold has become a full-time job. She had some training in traditional Chinese medicine before she was recruited to Canada in 1987. So she knew one of the stated benefits of ginseng in enhanced disease resistance. "People get sick because their defense system is too weak to fight the variations we're constantly being subjected to," says Shan. "We wanted something from a natural source to strengthen immune cells."

While CV Technologies now has a strong core of private investors—many of them Alberta businessmen who swear by the

product—that wasn't always the case. Shan says the company was often on the verge of going broke in the 10 years she has been with it and the sometimes worked without a salary. But grants from such public agencies as the National Research Council and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research kept the venture afloat—along with no small measure of luck.

One of those lucky turns came in 1996 when Glen Sather, then president and general manager of the Edmonton Oilers, took notice of COLD-IX, which had just come on the market. Oiler players soon became guinea pigs for the company's first two-year trial. Shan was excited at testing the product on high-performance athletes, whose immune systems are constantly under stress from extreme exercise and frequent travel. Did it work? Well, the Oilers remain healthy. As, too, are players from 25 other NHL clubs, the CFL's Edmonton Eskimos and Calgary Stampeders. One of the reasons COLD-IX has made the athletic world the remedy contains no banned performance-enhancing substances.

Athletes aren't the only ones whose lifestyle makes them vulnerable to colds and flu. Tanya Burgess performs over 200 concerts a year across North America and says, "I can't just call it sick when I get a cold." Burgess started on COLD-IX five years ago after talking to Sather, and says it has helped keep her in front of the spotlight.

One obstacle faced by the Toronto-based Burgess was tracking down the capsules, until recently, 94 per cent of COLD-IX sales came from Alberta. But with last fall's marketing push, it's now available in most major drug outlets across Canada. Gross sales for the first three months of fiscal 2005 stood at \$11.3 million, nearly double the sales figure for all of 2004, which was the company's first profitable year.

But Shan already has her sights set on bigger prizes. Her studies show that Americans endure infections six to eight times more often for every adult and six to eight for every child—and that the North American market for cold and flu remedies is a \$1.4-billion-a-year industry. Then there's the rest of the world. "My dream," says Shan, "is for this product to be sold in every corner of the globe." Consider it a Canadian cold from the making. □

"WE KNOW
Don Cherry doesn't give us scientific credibility. But he's someone who speaks from the heart."

Made from an extract of ginseng found in North American growing, COLD-IX serves two functions. For existing infections, it aims to take a cool of 18 capsules over the course of three days. To prevent infection in the first place, a daily dose of two capsules is recommended. (The latest strategy doesn't come cheap: a year's supply would run about \$300.)

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EASY WAYS TO SAVE

THE ENVIRONMENT

(AND MONEY TOO)

Indoors, outdoors and on the road:
how to be cleaner and greener
without breaking a sweat.

BARBARA WICKENS reports.

ASK WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US, and Canadians are here to put "the environment" on any Top 10 list. But what we tell pollsters and how we behave are two very different things. By one calculation, it would require four Earths if everyone on the planet lived the way Canadians do.

Just look at what we're up against in complying with our commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The international treaty, which goes into force on Feb. 16, calls for a global 5.2 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2012, compared with 1990 levels. But even after Canada signed on, emissions of gases blamed for creating climatic havoc

kept soaring. Now, just to hit the target, Canada needs to reduce emissions by 30 per cent. In practical terms, that means burning a lot less of the fossil fuels that generate electricity, keep our homes comfortable and our cars running.

And of course global warming isn't the only environmental challenge confronting Canadians. Habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity, pollutants in the air and

water, climate risks are being more energy efficient. But with oil back in the US\$45 range, the carbon tax seems a better bet than the truck. And, in fact, all levels of government in Canada, and even some corporations, design a variety of incentives and rebates before consumers to buy certain seasonally-friendly products, from fridges to furnaces. While some of these goods have higher upfront costs, many of them mean less than pay for themselves in energy savings down the line.

People are also more likely to change when it doesn't require superhuman effort. Yet not only does something as simple as leaving grass clippings where they fall mean less



waterways, overflowing landfills—all are crying out for attention. Canada has the world's third largest "ecological footprint," a measure of the area needed to produce what residents consume and to absorb all resulting waste.

So what would make us change our profit-fueled ways, when we already know it's the right thing to do? Just ask anyone who's tried to get a five-year-old to eat his Brussels sprouts (ouch) might the words "because you should" carry. Besides, it's difficult to make the connection between how taking the bus instead of driving today will ensure that polar bears still have Arctic ice floes to swim across five years from now.

No, the answer lies in wanting to change. Last fall, for instance, oil hit nearly US\$56 a barrel, a price that lured us through a just

week, it's good for the lawn and keeps the yard waste out of precious landfill space. Still, even with the best intentions, it's not always easy to know what to do, or to sort out conflicting claims. Does it take more gas to let a car idle or to turn it off and on again? The answer—idling, for anything longer than 10 seconds—is part one of the 101 tips, big and small, you can glean from the following list to help you tread a little more softly upon the Earth.

Think you alone can't make much of a difference? Consider this: If every household changed just one standard incandescent light bulb to a more energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulb, the country would cut its annual greenhouse gas emissions by 397,000 tonnes. That's the equivalent of taking 65,000 cars off the road for a year.



For a full story of environment-friendly solutions, visit www.ec.gc.ca/environ360. And for a challenge, test your knowledge with our online quiz.

11 IDEAS TO START

Pick up—and properly dispose of—any piece of litter each day.

Take a "working" vacation participating in hands-on conservation. Last year, for instance, Ontario Nature volunteers' three- to 15-day expeditions took on projects ranging from building trails to monitoring wildlife to restoring habitat. For an informal local working vacation, check out organizations like the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. There's a lot to do closer to home. Volunteer with Project FeederWatch, for instance, count the numbers and kinds of birds at their backyard feeders during the winter months, as bird populations are an indicator of environmental health.

Work with your neighbours to create a community garden in an unused open space like an abandoned lot, hospital or school grounds, or ravine.

Join a naturalization project in your community and help bring a stream, wetland or field back to its natural state.

Take Ottawa's One-Two Challenge to reduce your annual output of grey-water gas emissions by 20 per cent.

Buy food from local growers. Less energy is used to get the food to market and you support your local economy.

The average child who takes a disposable lunch bag with plastic-wrapped food and single-serving items like pudding to school each day generates 30 kg of garbage every school year. Buy reusable food containers and reusable drink bottles and pack it all in a durable carrier.

Help organize a lunchless lunch program at your child's school.

Keep your pet cat indoors. One outdoor cat kills, on average, 40 small birds and animals a year, sporting natural predatory instincts.

Know and obey your municipality's bylaws for disposing of household hazardous waste, whether at a separate curbside collection or drop-off depot.

Things like antiques, any type of battery, medications, mercury thermometers, springs, oil, gasoline, paints and solvents should never be tossed in the garbage, poured down a drain or storm sewer or dumped onto the ground.

46 HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Home is not only where the heart is, it's where there are the most opportunities to make a difference

BUYING NEW

■ The stringent R-2000 home (House meeting R-2000 standards must achieve high energy performance goals, have excellent air quality, and use environmentally friendly products and processes during construction well beyond what building codes require.

■ The EnerGuide rating system, which Canada launched in 1978 so consumers could compare the energy efficiency of major electrical household appliances, was expanded in 1995 to residential structures

requiring a comeback, manufacturers are introducing a growing number of innovative new products, many made with recycled or reclaimed materials, others that are less toxic than standard materials.

■ Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted from building materials are a major source of indoor pollution, so look for low-VOC products ranging from paint and lumber substrates to adhesives and carpet backing.

■ When shopping for major appliances, heating and air conditioning systems, check out the EnerGuide rating and buy the most energy-efficient.

■ In some product categories, the most energy-efficient models may vary an EnerGuide label. The international symbol indicates models that are 10 to 50 per cent more efficient than conventional ones.

■ Install a high-efficiency furnace. The energy rating for gas furnaces is called AFUE, or annual fuel utilization efficiency. High-efficiency units have an AFUE of 90 to 97 per cent, standard furnaces range from 75 to 84 per cent, and furnaces manufactured before 1980 have ratings of 60 per cent or lower.

■ No point letting that warm air escape. To find leaks, on a windy day hold a lit incense stick near windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and any other possible routes to the outside, then observe the smoke stream.

■ Prefer someone else did the work? Hire one of the companies that conduct environmental audits on homes throughout Canada. For instance, an EnerGuide for Homes evaluation costs \$300 to \$350.

■ Install heat recovery ventilator. They're designed to improve indoor air quality by continuously expelling stale indoor air and using the recovered heat to pre-heat the incoming fresh air. Be sure to keep the filter



BECAUSE WINDOWS are a new \$100 Star product category in Canada, they might not yet carry a rating. So go for as many of these features as you can afford: double or triple glazing with a sealed insulating glass unit, low emissivity or "low-e" glass, inert gas such as argon or krypton in the sealed unit, low conductivity or "warm edge" spacer bars, insulated frames and sashes.

NEARLY 30 per cent of your home's heat is lost through cracks and crevices in the exterior walls. That's the equivalent of a basketball hoop-size hole in your wall.



UPGRADE YOUR attic insulation. Provincial building codes set minimum standards, but in general, more is better.



WHEN YOU go away on holidays, unplug home electronics such as TVs, computers and VCRs. Even when off, they use standby power to run things like internal clocks and memory settings that accounts for 40 per cent of their total energy consumption.

STANDARD incandescent bulbs use only 5 to 8 per cent of their energy to produce light; the rest is dissipated as heat. Halogen lighting with a similar light output uses up to 40 per cent less energy.



FRONT-LOADING washers use 40 per cent less water and detergent and 50 per cent less energy than top-loaders.



ENCOURAGE YOUR politicians to follow Alberta's lead and set up a comprehensive e-waste recycling program. Until then, use company-specific recycling programs (IBM and Hewlett-Packard Canada for all PC computers, Rogers Wireless, Bell Mobility and Texas for all cellphones).

CYBERSPACED OUT

More than 510,000 tonnes of e-waste (computers, phones, televisions, stereos and so on) are expected to pile up in Canadian landfills each year.

ideas for optimal performance

■ Replace any roof shingle that's more than 15 years old with a modern one that costs up to 90 per cent fewer pollutants than older models while barring one-third less wind to produce the same amount of heat.

■ Switching to a high-efficiency water heater could save up to \$190 a year.

■ Install a water meter. Water consumption usually drops 18 to 25 per cent after people get an accurate reading of how much they really use—and pay for.

■ Check freons are more energy-efficient than upright models.

■ Self-cleaning ovens generally have more insulation than regular ones, which translates into energy savings every time you cook.

EVEN IF YOU RENT

■ During hot heating seasons, set the thermostat to 20°C during the day and 17 at night to reduce energy costs as much as 10 per cent.

■ Install programmable thermostats that even when you forget, temperatures will automatically be raised and lowered.

■ In summer, set air conditioning thermostats to 23.5°C. Cooling costs climb by five per cent for every degree you set your thermostat below 20.

■ Draft reduces the efficiency of light bulbs, so keep all bulbs, lamps and light fixtures clean.

■ Concentrate bright light where you need it—so-called task lighting—and then evenly lighting an entire room. Install separate switches to put them on the needed light.

■ Place lamps where their light can reflect off light-colored walls, such as in a corner, to provide the most light for your money.

■ Install photo-eye, motion sensors, timers



REPLACE STANDARD incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs—they use a quarter of the energy and last 10 times longer. Replacing just five ordinary light bulbs will save about \$30 a year.

REPLACE YOUR old toilet with a new water-efficient one. Check out the performance of 37 models tested under the auspices of the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association at <http://www.cwwa.ca> (encls., p. 45)

COMING UP ROSES

The Pleasant Wilcox Hotel in Vancouver grows herbs and flowers as its sustainable green roof, saving some \$40,000 a year—thanks, in large part, to the city's incentives.

Some new home tract builders offer energy upgrade packages with an EnerGuide rating, or, if building your own, work with an independent EnerGuide for Homes adviser.

MAJOR UPGRADES

■ Install a so-called "green" roof—a permanent installation (no, not potted plants) with a special waterproof barrier, lightweight growing medium and plants. You don't have to have access to it to enjoy the benefits. Green roofs last up to twice as long as conventional roofs, reduce heating and cooling costs, and insulate for sound. They're also good for the community: they improve air quality and help reduce the urban heat island effect (the difference in temperature between a city and surrounding countryside).

■ Incorporate environmentally friendly building products into your renovation project. Not only are some old-fashioned, all-natural materials like linoleum flooring

and dimmer on household lighting for savings of up to 144 a year in electricity costs.

- Light-emitting diodes are 90 per cent efficient. So far, consumers can find LEDs as seasonal lighting, and as the technology advances, LEDs will be more widely used.
- Set the temperature on your water heater to 49°C.

- Cover any exposed plumbing around the water heater with pipe insulation or wrap.
- Install faucet aerators to minimize water flow while maintaining adequate pressure.
- Fix leaky pipes and caps. Stopping a hot-water leak of one drop a second—that amounts to 790 litres a month—could save \$36 a year.

- Install blinds or window coverings. In the winter, coverage on south-facing windows should be open during the day to make the most of solar gain and closed at night to slow down heat loss. In the summer, south-facing blinds should be closed during the day to minimize heat gain.

- Set your computer to "sleep mode" so the screen darkens when you step away for awhile—screen savers use electricity. For longer periods, turn it off.

- Only run the dishwasher when it is full.

THE BIG CHILL

Your refrigerator accounts for 13 per cent of your household's total energy consumption.

and select the "air dry" option.

- Organize the food on your refrigerator shelves to allow for ample airflow and efficient operation. Conversely, a full freezer works better than an empty one.

- Defrost your freezer every time the ice reaches 0.5 cm.

- Unplugging the second refrigerator in the basement could save \$40 a year.

- If you can test your refrigerator or freezer door seal by doing it on a sheet of paper. Replace the seal if the paper slides out easily.

- Your freezer or refrigerator works harder when placed next to a heat source like a radiator, heating vent, dishwasher, stove, dryer or furnace.

- You can save up to 50 per cent of your cooking energy costs by using a microwave oven instead of a conventional oven.

- Turning on your oven's interior light to check your dinner, instead of opening the door, helps save energy.

21 SEEDS OF CHANGE

When you're in the garden, "the environment" is right beneath your feet, so naturally, it should be healthy

YARD AND GARDEN

- Plant a tree native to your region to help maintain Canada's natural biodiversity.

- Plant deciduous trees to the south, east and west of your house to help keep the house cooler in summer while letting light in during the winter. A line of evergreens on the north side can shelter your house from cold winter winds, reducing the demand for heat.

- Planting heritage varieties helps preserve heirloom gene pools and protects biodiversity. A good starting point: Seeds of Diversity, a charitable organization whose members exchange seeds of some 1,500 different kinds of plants, primarily fruits and vegetables. The group's website, www.seeds.ca, lists local commercial sources of the heirloom plants.

- Do not plant invasive non-native species when plants or trees like purple loosestrife, Scotch broom and Norway spruce spread beyond the garden, they take over wild habitats, crowding out native species and threatening natural ecosystems.

- Grow plants native to your region; they'll require less maintenance and are less susceptible to disease and pests, and provide valuable food sources and shelter for wildlife.

- The best source is a good local nursery, but make sure the plants you buy are nursery-propagated and not collected from the wild.
- Do NOT dig plants from the wild. The one exception is on land slated for development under where the existing vegetation will be destroyed (be sure to get permission from the landowner).

- To attract pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, plant a diversity of flowers with a spectrum of blooming times. Shrubs and trees such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, willow and poplar will provide pollen on most, at least, early in the season when food is scarce.

- Even if you don't live in one of the growing

number of municipalities that has banned the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes, use a variety of insect and weed control strategies. Healthy plants, including grass, are less susceptible to pests, mites, nematodes, or even eliminating, the need for pesticides.

- Set your mower blade high—5 to 7.5 cm from the ground. Longer grass encourages deep root growth, shades out weeds and conserves the soil's moisture.

- Aerating once every spring and fall is a key step to a healthy lawn. It lets oxygen, nutrients and water enter the soil.
- Instead of using herbicides, dig out weeds and their roots by hand, potting/burning weeds.

CHEW ON THIS

In 2006, there were 1,500 different varieties of apples, nearly 100 per cent of them are now extinct.

on weeds growing between patio stones, and instead of insecticides, knock insects off plants with a stick or your hands into a dish of soapy water.

- Don't use more chemical and even organic fertilizers than absolutely necessary to avoid nutrient runoff.

- Use core plants to enrich the soil. Used on the lawn each spring and fall, it inhibits the germination of weed seeds.

- Grass too much bother, but you still want a swath of green? Plant a clover lawn. Among clover's advantages: it's pest and drought resistant, low-growing so it takes mowing, and its digger roots aerate the soil.

- Reduce the amount of salt spread on sidewalks and driveways by using sand or alternative de-icing products, and shovel frequently to prevent snow and ice build-up. The runoff doesn't only harm garden plants, but can seep into the ground and accumulate in the aquifers that provide drinking water.



PLANT A TREE: To grow a kilogram of wood, a tree uses 3.23 kg of carbon dioxide and gives off 2.15 kg of oxygen.



PUT UP A NESTING BOX: Some 20 Canadian bird species nest in the cavities of decaying trees, but with habitat destruction, their homes are disappearing.

THE AVERAGE conventional gas-powered lawn mower emits close to 40 kg of greenhouse gases per year, so use an electric or push-type mower.

DON'T RAKE or bag grass clippings; leaving them results in less nitrogen and disease and more earthworms—and reduces lawn maintenance time by 40 per cent.



BE SMART about watering—in hot sun once a week is enough. Watering in the early morning promotes mold and diseases.



DURING the peak growing season, grass clippings can amount to almost 35 per cent of household waste.



COMPOST: Nature's way of recycling has a wide range of benefits, not least of which is diverting waste from landfills. Used as a soil amendment or top dressing, compost improves the texture and fertility of the soil.



HOOK UP can barrels to your downspouts. Your lawn doesn't need the chlorine in municipally treated water—and leeches, rainwater is free.

LEARN TO love bugs. The good guys such as ladybugs and dragonflies prey on the bad guys: aphids, mosquitoes and the like. In fact, of the approximately one million species of insects, only a small fraction are considered pests.



23 TIPS FOR THE ROAD

It's not only what you drive that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but how you drive

BUYING NEW

■ Go for the most fuel-efficient vehicle in its class. According to Natural Resources Canada, the best ones for 2003 in new categories are:
Two-seater car: Honda Insight
Subcompact car (fourth): Volkswagen New Beetle TDI
Subcompact car (quarter): Toyota Echo Hatchback
Compact car: Honda Civic Hybrid
Mid-size car: Toyota Prius
Full-size car: Chevrolet Malibu Maxx

WAY OFF TRACK

Transportation accounts for 25 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. The average car pumps out over twice its weight in carbon dioxide each year.

Station wagon (third): Volkswagen Jetta TDI Wagon
Station wagon (quarter): Pontiac Vibe and Toyota Corolla Matrix (co-winners)
Pickup truck: Ford Ranger and Mazda B2300 (co-winners)
Special purpose vehicle: Ford Escape Hybrid SE Honda Odyssey EX-L
■ As a general rule, a manual transmission with overdrive, combined with a tachometer or shift indicator, is more fuel-efficient than an automatic, and by shifting properly, you can expect to achieve to 10 per cent less fuel than if the vehicle had an automatic transmission. The manual advantage tends to be greatest in small cars with four-cylinder engines; bigger vehicles tend to benefit less from a manual transmission.

SMOOTH RUNNING

■ Keep your car tuned. From less than nine per cent of its fuel efficiency without the required maintenance.

- Carpool or work from home whenever possible. Commuting accounts for more than one-third of car travel.
- Close windows when you're driving at 60 km/h or faster—it makes your vehicle more aerodynamically efficient.
- Use the air-conditioner sparingly. Use flow-through vents at high speeds, either with open the windows. When parking, find a shady spot.
- When temperatures drop below freezing, use a block heater or a timer set to activate the heater two hours before you plan to drive. The warmed-up oil and engine coolant will make it easier to start your vehicle.
- Instead of a number of short trips (one to eight kilometers), combine errands into one trip using the most direct route, or make short trips at your own convenience. Sometimes a little longer route that lets you keep to a steady speed can be more fuel-efficient than a shorter one with lots of traffic lights.
- It's also worth planning ahead and mapping out long trips—using four-lane highways is usually more fuel-efficient than using two-lane highways with intersections and stoplights requiring multiple stops and starts.
- Don't be an aggressive driver. "Jerkdriver" starts and hard braking reduce travel time by only four per cent—or 2.5 minutes out of a 60-minute trip—but increase fuel consumption by 30 per cent.



WAITING FOR SOMEONE Turn your car off—once your vehicle is warmed up, idling for more than 13 seconds uses more fuel than restarting it. Restarting adds about \$10 a year to the wear on engine parts—a small amount compared to the fuel savings.

IN THE PEAK of winter, Canadians voluntarily idle vehicles for a combined total of more than 75 million minutes a day—equal to one vehicle idling for 143 years.



EXTRA WEIGHT and aerodynamic drag increase fuel consumption, clear off all snow and remove roof racks when not in use.



IDLING IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE of fuel and money, and can be hard on the engine. Once a car is started, it warms up better when it's in motion, so keep idling to a maximum of 30 seconds.

NEED A CAR only occasionally? Join one of the car-sharing co-operatives popping up in Canadian cities, including Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City, and use an economy car when you need it for about a quarter of the cost of owning a vehicle.



CHECK YOUR tire pressure monthly. This is especially important in winter. As pressure drops with the temperature, which adds to the rolling resistance. Maintaining correct tire pressure can save you \$20 in annual fuel costs.

USE FUEL on labeled "Energy Saver," indicating it's been tested to be as slippery as possible, and reduce fuel consumption by 3.7 per cent or more compared to conventional oil.



Use a bicycle, walk or use public transit whenever possible.

POOR TIRE maintenance is responsible for 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide being unnecessarily released into the environment every year in Canada.



DOLLAR REWARDS

Using one environmentally friendly car can get you monetary rewards, thanks to a wide array of federal, provincial, municipal and even private rebates and grants. Here are some examples of the incentives out there—be sure to check what is available in your area.

Home Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants: up to \$3,545 for home energy improvements recommended by an EnerGuide for Houses evaluation.

Energy Star: International symbol identifies products that are among the most efficient—vehicle data related rebates.

SealEnergy: offers prime retail loans of up to \$10,000 for customers installing Energy Star furnaces or boilers.

Environmental Youth Corps: Manitoba offers up to \$10,000 for youth-led projects like tree-planting, cleanups or increasing wildlife habitats.

Car Heaven: available in Ontario and Alberta and soon in B.C., this program rewards your 14-year-old car for free, and offers rewards such as transit discounts and savings on a bike.

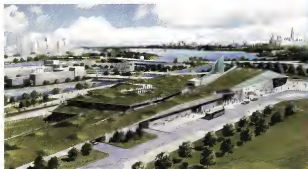
Acrescape: landscaping. City of Regina provides free lessons in water-saving gardening.

WASH 'N' Save: get \$40 from City of Toronto toward purchase of an energy-efficient washing machine, and up to \$15 for a low-flush toilet.

Greenworks projects: Home Depot Foundation and Shell Canada offer large grants for community- or city-based environmental projects.

Greening Gardens: "seniors" groups can receive up to \$100 from the Canadian Wildlife Federation to start a citizen-friendly garden.

KATH MURPHY



THE ART OF SUBTLETY

The modest new Canadian War Museum goes against the trend toward spectacular projects

RAYMOND MORIYAMA, at 75 one of Canada's most revered architects, is picking his way around construction materials made what might be his crowning achievement: the Canadian War Museum. He scans the main lobby's low-slung, undulating ceiling with a satisfied smile. "It's meant to feel like clouds," he says. And it does—cloud cover pressing down over a stretch of land, maybe even a battlefield. The effect is nothing like the airy, vaulting quality typical of entry areas to grand public buildings. This space is designed to

put visitors in a reflective mood. They're supposed to be thinking about war, after all. Moriyama and his design partner on the project, Ottawa architect Alex Rankin, say the angled-down museum, on a prime site beside the Ottawa River just west of Parliament Hill, was the "quiet courage" of Canadians who went to war. "It's a building of

450,000 sq ft," Moriyama says, "so create it modest was a challenge."

Making it modest is an aim not much in vogue these days when it comes to major new buildings. The big noise in Canadian architecture is swirling around two block-buster museum expansions in Toronto, one by Frank Gehry, the Canadian-born, Los Angeles-based designer of the epoch-defining

Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the other by Daniel Libeskind, the American chosen to bring his vision to redeveloping New York City's Ground Zero. Gehry has designed a major remodeling of the Art Gallery of Ontario, featuring an immense titanium and glass facade and projected to cost \$200 million, while Libeskind's \$200-million makeover will have the stately old Royal Ontario Museum sprouting huge crystals. Asked about these and other recent Toronto projects by international-marquee architects, Moriyama hesitates to comment on specific buildings, but doesn't dispute his general disdain. "Our technological society tends to lean toward flash," he says,

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"to technological answers based on ego."

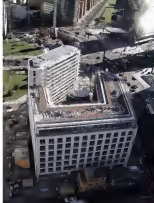
Ego, of course, has never been in short supply when it comes to high-profile architecture. How could it be otherwise in a discipline that invites any visionary to create on a scale that far surpasses what's available to, say, most painters or novelists? And given the ego at play, including his own, Moriyama's insights about the museum hogging outsiders' might easily be dismissed as sour grapes. But his critique is echoed by enough other Canadian architects to suggest something more substantial. Their common complaint: the qualities they value most in design are not reflected in what the "so-called stars" are bringing to the country's biggest city.

With his design, Moriyama intended to follow, in modest fashion, the "quiet courage" of Canadian combatants.

"There's a fashion parade of big-name architects coming to Canada," gripes Peter Busby, a Vancouver architect renowned for his buildings' environmental ingenuity. "They're blind for the spectacularism of their designs. It's more important to do buildings that are integrated into their context properly, that are elegant and simple, and use resources conservatively."

The new \$708-million war museum, which is nearing completion and scheduled to open in May, fits with Busby's notion of dis-

creet style. The building molds into its riverside-meadow setting. There's meadow grass growing over much of its rooftop, so which visitors will have easy access by pedestrian ramps on either side. The museum's only eye-catching element, a swooping, copper-clad fin on its roof, is aligned with the Peace Tower, off to the east, linking the museum visually and symbolically to the Performing Arts Centre. Hal Koler, author of *A History of Canadian Architecture*, says this sort of willingness to acknowledge surroundings—rather than dominate them—is a hallmark of good Canadian design. "Greater attention to context is part of our architectural tradition," he observes. And that's not the son-



From left, KPMG's Canadian Embassy in Berlin, Busby's Ironwood SkyTrain Station, a large OCAD expansion—three architects applied to design the building, while others value blending gracefully into an urban context

of thinking that trends toward gentrification or gleaming expanses of downtown.

Of course, many new buildings have to fit into more crowded settings than the bucolic site of the new war museum. Just now, Toronto's Bloor Street might be the best place to contemplate the tension between imported eye candy and homegrown reserve. On the same block West block where Libeskind's edgy addition to the ROM is rising, a subtle \$35 million expansion of the Royal Conservatory of Music, designed by the Toronto firm Kiewit/James McKenna. Kiewit, in order way KPMG's design is different to the conservatory's late 19th and early 20th-century buildings, while Libeskind's crystal concept threatens to overwhelm the ROM's 1912 and 1932 wings. "His design was supposed to conserve and showcase the historic ROM," says Kiewit, a Vancouver consultant in architecture conservation. "In my opinion, it hides it."

For his part, KPMG partner Bruce Kiewit welcomes the influx of international firms to Toronto. He notes that the city has a history of being shaped by visionary architects, notably in the 1960s, when Viljo Revell gave Toronto a big hug of a city hall and Ludwig

Mies van der Rohe's black Toronto-Dominion Centre set the standard for modernism in business towers. But asked if he sees much to emulate in today's business designs, Kiewit says, "KPMG is not about headline architecture, we're about a slower road." People who work in his firm's buildings come to love them, he adds, even if they'd have trouble sketching their building or explaining what makes it exceptional.

Not that Kiewit and his partners, along with other like-minded Canadian architects, are suffering from lack of attention. Just one sign that they're being noticed: a prestigious European publisher of architecture books, Birkhäuser, recently released *The Architecture of Kiewit/James McKenna Kiewit*, a fully illustrated coffee-table book that showcases everything from the firm's 1991 breakthrough building, mixed Woodworth College at the University of Toronto, to the Canadian Embassy now under construction in Berlin.

Kiewit seems most excited, though, about a KPMG work-in-progress too recent to make the book—the new headquarters in Winnipeg for Manitoba Hydro. "We're working with an integrated design team to achieve incredible energy savings for this building," he says. Designing with the environment as a prime concern is a growing trend among leading-edge Canadian architects. The lessons come from Europe, where stringent building codes push architects to consider everything from using more recycled materials to capturing solar energy. KPMG's embassy in Berlin, for instance, will collect rainwater from its roof for watering plants. Kiewit says green design makes sense with what's called urbanism, which broadly means paying respectful attention to a new building's

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Like 35-year-old Kiewit, Busby, 57, is an established figure. He both are well-older neighbors, and he credits Vancouver's Busby as the leading Canadian exponent of sustainability in architecture. "It's not about headline architecture, we're about a slower road." People who work in his firm's buildings come to love them, he adds, even if they'd have trouble sketching their building or explaining what makes it exceptional. Not that Kiewit and his partners, along with other like-minded Canadian architects, are suffering from lack of attention. Just one sign that they're being noticed: a prestigious European publisher of architecture books, Birkhäuser, recently released *The Architecture of Kiewit/James McKenna Kiewit*, a fully illustrated coffee-table book that showcases everything from the firm's 1991 breakthrough building, mixed Woodworth College at the University of Toronto, to the Canadian Embassy now under construction in Berlin. Kiewit seems most excited, though, about a KPMG work-in-progress too recent to make the book—the new headquarters in Winnipeg for Manitoba Hydro. "We're working with an integrated design team to achieve incredible energy savings for this building," he says. Designing with the environment as a prime concern is a growing trend among leading-edge Canadian architects. The lessons come from Europe, where stringent building codes push architects to consider everything from using more recycled materials to capturing solar energy. KPMG's embassy in Berlin, for instance, will collect rainwater from its roof for watering plants. Kiewit says green design makes sense with what's called urbanism, which broadly means paying respectful attention to a new building's

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TALES OF TRANSGRESSION

In a trio of movies, men who behave badly aren't entirely bad men

NOW IS THE WINTER of our discomfort, and we have the movies to match. In *Bad Education*, a pedophile priest wrung by a riverbank struts his hairy while a 10-year-old choirboy croons *Alone*. *River* in Spanish is a buxom scene that serves as a prelude to sexual assault. In *The Woodsman*, Kevin Bacon plays a convicted child molester struggling to go straight who nervously chats up a pubescent girl in a park. And in *The Merchant of Venice*,

Al Pacino attempts to reverse the tide of Shakespeare's anti-Semitism by bringing pathos to the stereotype of Shylock, the "doglike" wheedler with his "pound of flesh."

All three films grapple with unsavory subjects. And we're not just talking about evil—Hollywood, after all, has built an industry on obscene violence, laughter, rape, murder and all manner of demonic behavior. But pedophilia and anti-Semitism both weaponize highly sensitive taboos. And

these films are not simple tales of good and evil—they're empathetic stories of men behaving badly who aren't entirely bad men.

Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar has a talent for making outrageous acts seem natural, and letting them pass without judgment. In *Talk to Her* (2002), he made a plausible romance here of a male nurse who makes love to a woman in a coma. Now, with *Bad Education*, he creates a compelling portrait out of pedophilia, gender-bending,

blackmail and murder. But it works: a moral shift from the sensual dreams of *Talk to Her* and *All About My Mother*. With the bold, paleo-lesbian strokes of his early melodramas (*Law of Desire*), Almodóvar lays down layer upon layer of first blushes and disco narratives to create a diabolical idyll.

The story unfolds as a film within a film. Enrique (Fede Martínez), a gay director weaving the tribulations of script slouts, receives a visit from Angel (Gael García Bernal), a struggling actor who presents himself as Ignacio, his long-lost school classmate and first love. Angel offers him a short story, inspired by the sexual abuse that Ignacio and Enrique suffered to school boys at the hands of the priest who served as their principal. In the story,

Ignacio grows up to be a thief, drug-addicted female impersonator named Zedee who tries to blackmail the priest. Enrique agrees to film the story—and coldly sets out to seduce Angel, who's desperate to play the lead, although the director feels he's wrong for the part.

In toying with their director-actor chemistry, Almodóvar crafts an aching seduction to Bernal, coining him as a coy, shape-shifting female fake. His overwrought plot is rife with film noir allusions, most specifically to *Double Indemnity*. But no one paints noir with more vivid colors than Almodóvar. And frankly, since, damn it, not a director alive who routinely delivers as much beauty, we're dead. Here, however, he's almost undone by his own genius. The story's intricate twists leave little room for emotion. Yet because the swirling subterfuge—the film's kind of drag act, an elaborate connoisseurship—you can sense a sort of personal truth.

While stressing his script is not autobiography, Almodóvar has said he partly based the pedophile priest on teachers at his old boarding school. And as one line of dialogue, this gay iconoclast who's both repulsive and sympathetic to his characters is unequivocal about sex with children: "You don't love a boy of 10. You abuse him." Even so, *Bad Education*'s besotted pedophile turns out not to be as cruel as his character. In Almodóvar's universe,

the most serious crime is lack of passion. By contrast, *The Woodsman* is vague, and rather grim, character drama that clings to a vein of stark realism. But as a sympathetic portrait of a pedophile trying to suppress his dark urges, it's a gutsy film. Kevin Bacon delivers a brave, nuanced performance as Walker—who's trying to stay out of trouble after spending 12 years in jail for molesting young girls. He has a job in a lumberyard, where he's befriended by Vicke, a mouthy, foul-mouthed played by Bacon's wife, Ryna Sedgwick. She warns no time struggling in his bed, and the film makes it clear that

Walker has a strong, selfish, honest sex drive. But the pair keep coming back to haunt him. He's berated by colleagues who have discovered his secret. His sister won't let him near his niece. His brother-in-law



AS A TRAGIC figure, Pacino's Shylock comes across as a sad victim of anti-Semitism, as a comic scapegoat, he's reduced to the butt of an anti-Jewish joke

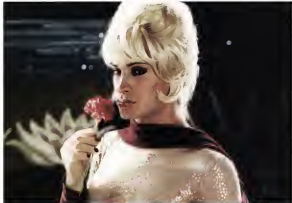
(Bacon's first) eyes burn with suspicion. And a local cop (Owen Duff) keeps harassing him. It doesn't help that Walker has found unemployment right across the street from an elementary school—when he watches another sexual predator, a man he dubs "Candy," trying to lure children into his clutches.

Making her feature debut, American director Nicole Kassell adapted the script from a play. And while the characters seem so thematic, the story takes a convoluted turn—with nothing shown between the recovering Sedgwick, who tells us, "I'm not a monster," and the shadow pedophile, who decries

it. For a film that seeks strength in shades of gray, the rush to redemption is just too straight and too narrow.

Sensitizing the Merchant of Venice provides a challenge as less-daring than making a crisscross about a flexible sex offender. And the latest screen adaptation will not end the debate as to whether Shakespeare's play is an exploration of anti-Semitism or just plain anti-Semitism. But British director Michael Radford (*Julius Caesar*) goes out of his way to create context, from the opening titles—which explain that "tolerance of the Jews was a fact of 16th-century life"—and Venetian Jews were locked in a walled ghetto by right uncalculated release by day without working a hat.

Yet Radford also dares us from such scenes with an apparent coarse drama, much of it set in Venice. Trimmed to a lean, 125-minute spectacle, the drama slides by like a gondola through a shoal of moonlight. Things get raucous, the actors tend to underplay the poetry. Looking once Elizabethan (as the Bard himself), a little Joseph Pines portraits Bassanio, the suitor who falls in love with Shylock's daughter. Jeremy Irons's superb anti-guano, Antonio, originating every line we'll meet just occurring on his. And Lynn Collins wails the quote as Portia, the cross-dressing heroine who saves everyone—she'll be at home in an Almodóvar movie. As always, Pacino as a hero of a shoeborn but hardheaded extraterrestrial. As he insists Shylock with that old Secret of a Woman blares, he lends real poignancy to Shylock's delusions of vengeance. But *The Merchant of Venice* is also a feel-good play, evenly split between tragedy and comedy. As a tragic figure, Pacino's Shylock comes across as a sad victim of anti-Semitism. As a comic scapegoat, he's reduced to the butt of an anti-Jewish joke. Even though the movie makes its sentiments clear, his humiliation still seems as cruel as Kevin Bacon asking a preteen girl on a park bench to sit on his lap. ■



Bacon plays a struggling actor—and a female impersonator—in Almodóvar's compelling puzzle of pedophilia, blackmail and murder



PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY

The best way to teach English in Japan is to get out of the schoolroom

THERE I WAS at the front of a classroom in Japan with 30 high-schoolers trying everything short of hiding under their desks to avoid my gaze. This was supposed to be a conversational English class, and I, the new guy, had asked them to repeat my name. Other non-native teachers had told me that Japanese students can be painfully shy and reluctant to speak up, so I'd even written my name on the blackboard. Still, they remained steadfastly stooped in their chairs. Eventually, with some determined prodding on my part, someone mumbled something, "Kacchiree!" I replied, "What I was really

thinking this lesson will never end.

I had recently arrived in Saito, a small city about 85 km north of Tokyo, to work as an assistant language teacher at a private high school. My duties—or so I thought—were to assist native Japanese instructors with English pronunciation and the occasional conversation game. That's why I was a little surprised, upon meeting my Japanese colleague, when he told me I would be leading the classes. "What should I do?" I asked. His response: "Anything you want."

This vague instruction was not what I wanted before teaching my first lesson. "Specifically?" I pressed. My senior partner answered: "Be as Canadian as you can be."

I'm part of a wave here of young English speakers who are being asked not only to teach, but to expose the students to our native culture. We're supposed to just "be Canadian"—or Australian or American or British—in the hope that we'll be so interesting even those students who don't care to learn English will want to talk to us, allowing learning to take place indirectly.

Still, I had no idea how my colleague's advice, in effect, just as myself was going to help me right then. If teachers' college prepares you to deal with these situations, I wouldn't know. Instead of earning a degree as a classroom teacher, I had majored in college at university. But with a college certificate, I was qualified to teach English overseas, and an open mind, I found myself 10,000 km from my Couch, Ore., home, responsible for designing and teaching

lessons—and feeling overwhelmed.

For one thing, there was the cultural shock. Outside of the most sequestered areas, Japan is culturally homogeneous and shielded from western influences; it has modernized as its own unique way. I'll never forget the time when a senior English teacher, in a classroom equipped with an electric chalkboard brush cleaner, pulled out an abacus to do multiplication.

And as anyone who has taught here will tell you, Japanese students have different



needs than students in other countries. For starters, the traditional Japanese style of teaching English has the teacher addressing the class from a podium. In this formal atmosphere, the students are expected to listen and write, and rarely get the chance to speak. Even when given the opportunity, they are reluctant to talk making mistakes. Any answer, in fact, is usually a sustained effort. There will be a short meeting with a surrounding desk mates, each offering a suggestion and waiting for feedback until a consensus is reached. It is one often means that instead of experimenting with vocab-

ulary, they stick to words they're sure are correct. As a result, many students appear to know less English than is actually the case.

A disadvantage to the learning point I hadn't yet figured out how to open things up in the classroom when I boarded the bus for Disneyland theme park in Tokyo. The transformation of these kids—who, as reported, had shown up in full school uniforms—from nervous students to happy, excited teenagers, was unexpected. They were in their element, showing their cracks and using anything as a prompt to start talking with me in English. I soon realized that trip would provide better opportunities for conversation lessons than anything in the classroom. And it hardly felt like work.

I still find the podium set up a problem. I mean the students feel comfortable, that they are not being evaluated—it's my job

enough of that in other classrooms—to continue to try to find better ways to connect. Fortunately, I am the younger, full-time teacher here and closer to age to the students than most of the teachers, so that gives me a certain "coolness" factor. The students seem very interested the sense of my university friends went to the same high school as Avril Lavigne. Even a potluck lunch can make a good lesson topic as it allows me to walk

around the room and just chat about what everyone has loved—food.

In the end, my lessons have turned out to be quite a cherry bonus. After each trip, one in particular started watching me intently throughout every lesson. It's a gratifying feeling to build someone's attention like that. I imagine it's similar to what an actor feels when captivating an audience, or a singer when eliciting rows of laughter. It's times like these when I look at the clock and wish the hands weren't moving so fast. **D**

Darek Gondor is also studying speaking in Japan. <http://japannews.com.au/2009/04/01/darek-gondor/>

BACKTALK

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Johnson's not a Canadian Idol, she just plays one on TV

She knows everyone wants a hit single—but she'd prefer to be Steve Nicks

growing up with new musical siblings, Alexz Johnson had it even better than the members of the Partridge Family—there were, after all, only five of them. "We jammed in the basement all the time," says Johnson, 33, who heads up the cast of CTV's new teen drama, *Instant Star*. "I was the singer, but my brothers didn't like doing a lot of pop music... so we played songs like Carry Hart, but much more to the point. There's why I love *Flashdance*, *Mac* and *Rob Dyrka*." On *Instant Star*, Johnson plays 15-

year-old Justin Harrison, the winner of a Canadian *Idol* like contest. "I never watched much of *Idol*, but went through a lot of what Justin's dealing with," says the Vancouver-based actor/singer, who made her TV debut opposite *So Weird* in 2000. "I went to a U.S. teen-concert music when I was 15 and was running down labels that wanted to make me into a *Billie Jean* *Spears*. I'm more a folk, western, two-step-kind-of-play-it-your-type." But that won't stop her from playing a pop star on TV. **JOHN INTINI**

More than a million fans in 10 to watch the pilot of *Instant Star* last fall.

Series premiere: Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. EST. *Instant Star* debuts: Saturdays at 7 p.m. (ET)

BUZZ LIST

Best New Music

For those who think an iPod mini is still too big, Apple debuts its newest portable music player (which holds 248 songs). It's the size of a candy—and will likely be as easy to devour.

ALEXZ JOHNSON

Kacchiree is ready for instant stardom.

Best Book

"It's missing in the long history of Canadian literature—how The Littlest Mole to Beep the Hooter—tongued Windsor, Ont., got built are being kept in secret safe houses and then smuggled into new homes in more relevant provinces."

Album and a Little More

Like *Heaven* may be Irish, blond and non-ferrous, but that won't stop him from playing the 10th U.S. president. After all, no one is more prepared than the *Idol* star in taking up the question of Alex's long-debated sexuality.

More Reading

It's a most people magazine, but the star's rags do say a theory that he's glancing photos of himself all over Toronto in an effort to make his profile. What they can't deny is that this anonymous graffiti artist has brought the Canadian street publicity from his hand in jeans.





A WAR FOR MUSLIM MINDS

What's the right way to counter Islamic terrorists? Ask Gilles Kepel.

GILLES KEPEL doesn't look like a provocative man. Compact, neatly dressed, apologetic about his jet-set schedule ("I must make a quick telephone call to Saudi Arabia"), France's foremost expert on Islamic fundamentalist terrorism found a half-hour to spare for a reporter the other day in his office at Paris's venerable Institut d'études politiques.

Kepel is visiting Canada to deliver three lectures: on Jan. 18 at the University of Quebec in Montreal, Jan. 19 at the University of Ottawa and Jan. 20 at the University of Toronto. As he discussed recent events in the continuing clash between Western nations and

Islamic fundamentalism, it was easy to imagine he'll irritate and outrage his audience in equal measure.

Kepel first appeared on North American radar screens with a book called *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*. It argued that fundamentalist terrorists were losing their big game—a war for the allegiance of the entire Muslim world. He described Islam's concerns as history's losers. The book was published, in English translation, shortly after 9/11. Kepel's view seemed a little off.

Not he, per se. His latest book,

The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West, repeats the thesis of a clash of civilizations. Instead, he describes a clash within civilizations: a *jihad*, an Arabic word he defines as "war in the heart of Islam, a centrifugal force that threatens the faithful with community fragmentation, disintegration and ruin."

The question posed by the international post-9/11 conflict, Kepel says, is whether the populations tempted by *jihad* will grow or shrink: whether the terrorists will gain converts or lose them. He is no fan of the U.S. invasion to depose Saddam Hussein, which he sees as a poor deployment of scarce resources. "As historians, our wisest weakness—the Americans' as well as ours—is that we think of these groups as extensions of states. The American army and American intelligence are very sophisticated and are quite capable of destroying a state. But against the networks that is



of *Qa'idah*, smart bombs aren't much help." But Canadians who might welcome an opponent of the Iraq war may have more difficulty with the other half of Kepel's thesis: that the ranks of the *jihad* movement also swell when Muslim populations in European capitals are left to the control of radical means instead of integrating into the larger population.

"The Muslims of Europe are between the rock of assimilation and the hard place of multiculturalism," he writes. "They have to find a middle path, which I suspect will more closely resemble a truly integrative policy of shared rights and privileges."

A path much like France's, in fact. Kepel set out on the assumption that recommended a law forbidding French students from wearing the Islamic veil or other religious insignia in school. He was skeptical of the policy at first. "But as we heard testimony about the pressure the Islamist movement was

putting on girls to wear the veil—calling them bad Muslims, burning them in working-class neighbourhoods because they weren't dressed as one should—it seemed very important to us that the state defend these most fragile of young citizens. It would have been a completely racist attitude to say that, because a girl is named Yasmina, she mustn't be defended by the laws of the republic."

Kepel believes France's policy of integration has proved in recent years better than the multicultural policies of a neighbouring country, the Netherlands.

The law banning religious headgear came into effect in time for the current school year, in September. French Muslims, in the main, disliked the policy. But they protested, Kepel said, as members of French society, not as outsiders—so much so that some girls marched in the streets wearing veils in the red, white and blue of the French flag. When French reporter Christian Cheneat and Georges Mallarmé were kidnapped in Iraq last year, "there was quite a remarkable mobilization of French citizens of Muslim origin or culture to deny the Iraqis the right to speak in their name."

This unexpected solidarity across religious lines contrasts with the violent uproar in Holland after Theo van Gogh, a provocative documentary filmmaker, was murdered in broad daylight by a young man of Moroccan origin.

"In the multicultural system, the frame of common reference is very fragmented. It's a logic of Pothos,¹ not of *oikos*," Kepel said. "Suddenly, with the stabbing, the Dutch had the impression they had nothing in common with these Muslims whose lives were juxtaposed with theirs."

Kepel paused, then concluded: "I consider multiculturalism to be a *dis* word for apartheid." Another apologetic smile. "That's rather provocative, isn't it?"

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To 12 year old Lisa, he was simply 11 year old Jenny.



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